

REMOVAL OF BEGGARY

1829. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey on the number of beggars in the country has been made; if so, the number of children and old men in the category of beggars; and

(b) whether any steps have recently been initiated by Government so that beggary can be removed from the country by providing decent means of livelihood to the beggars ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir, there has been no national survey. However, the Census Reports contain information regarding beggars and vagrants. According to the 1971 Census (1% advance tabulation) there are 7,44,500 such persons. This number is subject to variations on account of seasonal factors as also of the general growth in population.

(b) The problem of beggary is being tackled in the short term through anti-beggary laws in various States which provide for setting up of institutional services for training of the able-bodied beggars for their ultimate rehabilitation. The various socio-economic programmes are expected to have long term impact on eradicating beggary.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

1830. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research Inquiring Committee has submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations and the details regarding the recommendations accepted by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Report is under active consideration of the Government and would be placed on the Table of the House after the Government has taken its decision on the Report.

PEACOCK THRONE

1831. SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to get back the Peacock Throne; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Government of U. K.?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : (a) The Peacock Throne known to have been taken away by Nadir Shah does not exist.

(b) Does not arise.

TRIBAL HOUSES FOR GUJARAT

1832. SHRI I. K. KALANIA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many schemes for the construction of houses for tribals have been submitted by the Gujarat State Government from 1968-69 to 1972-73; and the amount involved therein (yearwise);

(b) whether the schemes have been sanctioned by the Planning Commission and the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the aid disbursed year-wise and the amount yet to be released ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE : (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No schemes for the cons-

truction of houses for tribals in Gujarat have been submitted by the State Government from 1968-69 to 1972-73. However, under the normal Plan pro-

gramme for Scheduled Tribes under the Backward Classes Sector the following two approved schemes with their expenditure are given below :—

(Rupees in lakhs)

Name of Scheme	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
(i) Financial assistance to Halpatis for housing and house-sites.	3.60	3.54	3.03	8.04	17.80†
(ii) Financial assistance to Co-operative Housing Societies.	20.00*	1.28	—	4.65	27.71†

*Relates to all categories of Backward Classes.

†Anticipated expenditure.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PORTS

1833. SHRI I. K. KALANIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned by Government for the development, repairs and maintenance of ports during the last three years;

(b) the amount of expenditure incurred by the State Governments during these years; and

(c) whether the full demand of Gujarat State Government has been met with during these years; and if not the reasons thereof, and the amount proposed to be allotted for the year 1973-74 ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Presumably, information is required in respect of minor ports included in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of which Government of India gives loan assistance.

Loans totalling Rs. 450.92 lakhs were sanctioned to maritime States concerned during the financial years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72.

(b) Information is being collected from State Governments.

(c) Yes; it is premature to decide on the allocation for 1973-74 now.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

1834. SHRI I. K. KALANIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned for repairs and maintenance and construction of National Highways in all the States; state-wise, during the last three years and for the year 1972-73;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the State Governments during the above period; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allotted for the year 1973-74 and the criteria adopted in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA) : (a) and (b). Two statements giving the requisite information regarding maintenance and repairs (Statement I) and construction of National Highways (Statement II) are attached. [See Appendix LXXXIII, Annexure Nos. 1 and 2.] The final al-